he Had written to Mr. William Coxon, secretary of the divisional Labour Party, 'believe what is being published in the papers, Labour or other.' It was wise advice, then as always; but now it was incumbent on him to tell them what they were to believe. The audience which listened to him seemed more bewildered than excited. When he pleaded with them—'My working-class friends'— the response was slight. He searched about in his mind for something that would touch them; at last found what he wanted. If he had not formed a National Government, money would have depreciated in value; a shilling worth perhaps a penny, perhaps even less, no more purchasing a pound of butter but only, say, a quarter of margarine. His working-class friends saw the point of that; from such a calamity he had delivered them. Henceforth, to drive home the argument, he carried about a pocketful of inflated German marks, which he constantly produced and flourished at audiences, and even at argumentative acquaintances.

When the Government met the House of Commons, Henderson was leader of the Opposition, and behind him were ranged Labour Members, a dozen or so only having attached themselves to MacDonald, to be known hereafter as National Labour, but not to signify much politically. Debates tended to resolve themselves into a series of bitter exchanges between MacDonald, Snowden and Mr. Thomas, and their former ministerial colleagues, in the course of which the rule that Cabinet proceedings should never be divulged was frequently contravened.

It is one of the peculiarities of parliamentary

procedure that, though it is intended to ensure that issues shall be clarified and all information of public importance be made available, its effect is usually to spread confusion and increase obscurity. Each indi-

memoirs, *Retrospect,* how on one occasion MacDonald rang her up at Londonderry House and asked if he might look in for coffee on his way to the Palace. 'When he arrived/ she writes, 'he was arrayed as an Elder Brother of Trinity House in full dress. This was the first occasion he had worn it, and he had come especially to show it off.* T.T.